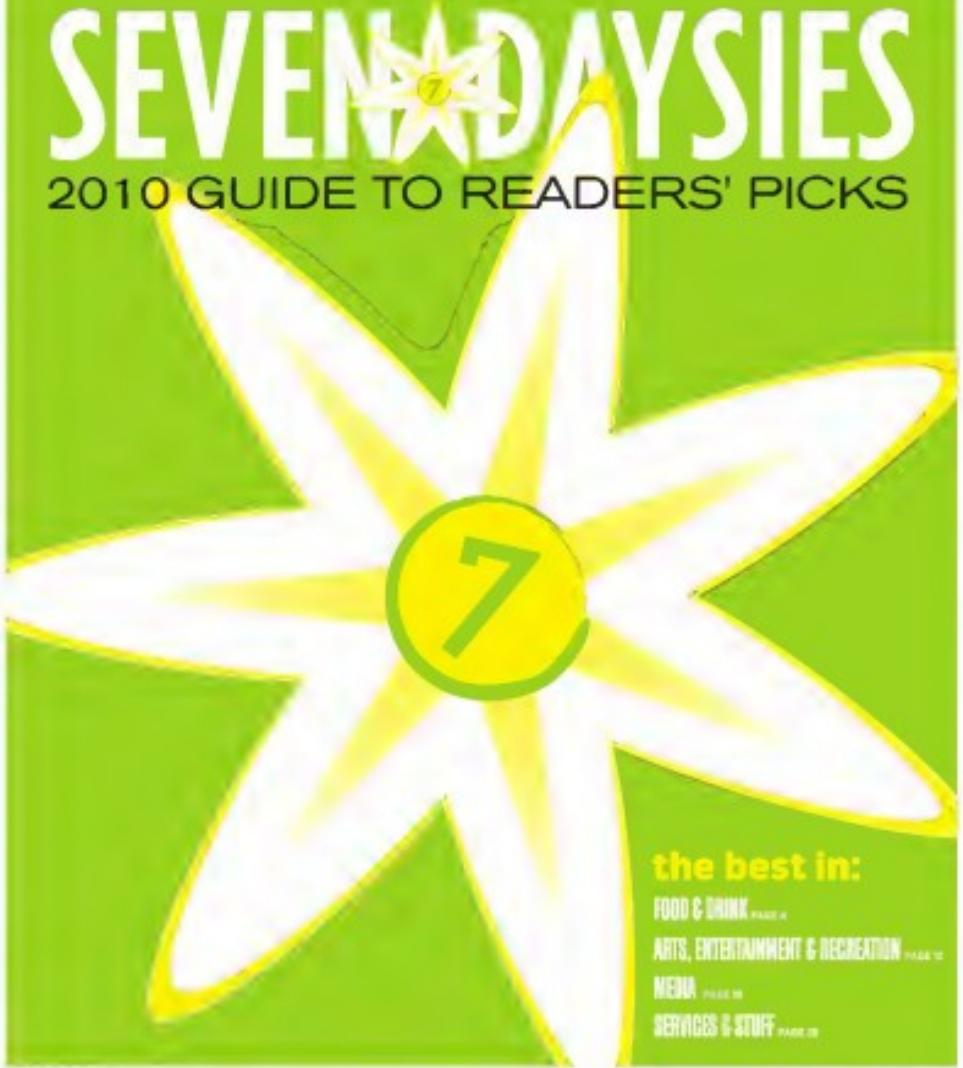


# SEVEN DAYSIES

2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS



7

**the best in:**

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MEDIA PAGE 18

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# SEVEN DAYSIES



## 2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS



**E**ight is a number with genetics who knows why? Perhaps because eight years is the better part of a decade, and we're kind of amazed to think we've given out Dayies awards so long. But that's a good thing. At least, the winners think so.

So here's what a lot of readers enjoy picking them, too — the number of responses to our survey surpassed last year's vast majority of them online. Paper ballots are about a thing of the past, thanks to SurveyMonkey.com.

Anyhow, regular readers will find many familiar names here. A lot of individuals and businesses are just damn popular — what can we say! Some darling competitors seem to trade places from year to year, so the only surprise is in finding out who took home the prize and who was runner-up. Still, some upstarts and a handful of new categories keep the Dayies from wilting.

To reflect our semi-shady Chittenden County, we created even more "Outside" categories this year. Look for new winners primarily in central Vermont.

We changed the wording of a few standards and eliminated others altogether. Sorry if that fluctuation bums anyone out, but write confident life will go on.

One general observation about the results: The recession's influence appeared as a slight uptick in less expensive stores and restaurants, even if diners didn't claim any Dayies. For the most part, respondents still favor locally owned retailers and mid-end-trust service providers — and indulge themselves with the ever-increasing number of often-fresh dining options around the state.

Thanks to the loyal community of readers and advertisers who contribute to making Vermont a winning place in so many ways, and who continue to help that independent, locally owned media enterprise buck the trends and thrive. It just be cool again. Without you, we'll be pushing up...you know.

PAMELA POLSTON

Portrait, clockwise from top: Abby Flynn, Ferrybridge's Fine Jewelry; The Barnhouse Tap & Grill, Gregory Douglass, Granite State





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Best Bar

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

## Three Penny Taproom



On Sunday, Gabby Koenig makes up another dive.

# FOOD & DRINK

**S**ince their inception eight years ago, the Dinees have produced some reliable winners. Burlingtonians are always hot for a Tom McSorley's-style breakfast or *Penny Lane Cafe* — the eatery takes the ex-patise for Best Breakfast/Breakfast Inside Chittenden County. **Stone Soup** remains unbeatable for vegetarian fare, and *A Single Plateau* has won Best Asian Restaurant for its third year — as long as the category has existed — despite the retirement of founder Steve Hogan.

However, they've also brought some changes. Though **City Market/Oliver River Co-op** continued an underwhelming showing small in the category of Best Natural Foods Market Inside Chittenden County, Healthy Living crept up closer than ever. In fact, many of this year's biggest surprises were in the runner-up spots.

For example, chain restaurants made a couple of appearances. The Diner Street Friends' win on the heels of **American Flatbread** — Burlington's newest in the new category of Best Family-Friendly Restaurant. (Was a something about the name?) For Best Fast Food Delivery, **Dominos Pizza** in Burlington justified Jesus's initial out-of-the-runner-up spot so winter. **Leonardo's Pizza** Could

be that smoky new recipe the megacorporation is pushing in its ads?

Ethnic eaters presented their own challenges. Despite the fact that India is a part of Asia, **India House Restaurant** closed up again as one of Best Ethnic Cuisine (Non-Asian) Inside Chittenden County. However, it was clearly followed by a newcomer to the ranks: Burlington's water-front Mexican spot, **Madero's Restaurante Mexicano Cuadra**. Perhaps competition with recently opened Miguel's on Main right across the street forced supporters to get vocal. Outside Chittenden County, two year-old restaurants got the bulk of the votes: **Frida's Taqueria and Grill** in Stowe triumphed over Sunnyside Cuban Cafe and its Cuban-esque curries in Montpelier.

And, even if they didn't win — yet — several entries neared the spot year after year in the running, such as Blackbird Tavern, August First, and Daniel (Dunell) in Burlington, and Sansin Cocina Latina in Stowe.

With new categories this year, including Best Burger, there are sure to be more shockers. Did your favorite get enough votes to register? Cross your fingers and read on.

Alice Levitt

## BEER HAVEN

Three Penny Taproom has as many craft brews on tap as it has on its two dozen. On a bustling Friday or Saturday night, it may be a tight squeeze in the Main Street bar, which was also runner up for Best Ethnique Outside Chittenden County. But there's no doubt about beer: The conviviality never lets this upstart well-intended crew loose with local brews such as the Trapp Lager, California beers including North Coast Sculpin IPA and international offerings from Belgium, Germany, Norway and Japan. And it's not just the beer that keeps people coming back to Three Penny. The tapas-style bar food, prepared almost entirely with a couple of Cock Fingers (a sandwich patty fused to a waffle batter), is reason enough to stop. Get a plate of Cavendish Cup oysters or a bowl of kale-and-walnuts. Or try a sandwich with Monchoco chorizo and whole grain mustard, or grilled squash with avocado lime butter.

Megan James

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Original Logo 1971

## Best Vermont Microbrewery Switchback Brewing Company

Burlington



Bob Koenig, Steve Burkhardt, Dean Penn and Chris Dassano

### GETTING A HEAD

In Vermont, bar hop local beers on tap, you can bet one of them will be Burlington's Switchback Ale. The well-balanced unfiltered beer — which hit the market in 2002 — is widely popular this year. Switchback Brewing Company earned the Best Vermont Microbrewery award from last spring's winner Magic Hat Brewing Company. Perhaps a scoopup of mystery is part of Switchback's charm: the stuff doesn't come in bottles, so bars are the only place to get a mug and find the flavor in store by word of mouth. The company's Facebook page quickly racked up thousands of fans when it went live this April. And Switchback has a brand-new website, while its classic ale is well known. Switchback released a seasonal offering — totally mystery-bottled Red — in 2007. Perfect come along two years later and this month, New Vermont Brown Ale hit the taps. Drink up!

SUZANNE PODHAIZER

## Best Burger

### Farmhouse Tap & Grill

Burlington

#### MEDIUM RARE

Although they both opened in 2005 to serve comfort between burns, The Farmhouse Tap & Grill and Sky Burgers both include the essential Burlingtonian twist: it's more than a soft buttery, a Vermont cheese plate, and house-cured meat, the personality lets its locavore chips show. The latter features meat of land-and-water provenance and items like chile "cheese" fries and Totem Creek Mortons in an attempt to acknowledge a state's stache or fast-food joints. It's a testament to the diversity of Daycuse eaters that such disparate eateries sweep the new Best Burger category with Farmhouse taking the award and Sky Burgers an runner up. You can locate the Queen City for "two all-beef patties special sauce lettuce cheese pickles onions in a sesame seed bun" but whatever your taste, you can find a darn fine burger.

SUZANNE PODHAIZER



## SEVEN DAYSIES 2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best place to have dinner anytime

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] American Flatbread — Burlington Hearth
- [RUS] Leong's Bistro (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Saratoga Restaurant and Bar (Montpelier)
- [RUS] The Alchemist Pub & Brewery (Waterbury)

### Best special-occasion restaurant

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] The Kitchen Table Bistro (Richmond)
- [RUS] Trattoria Delia (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Hen of the Wood at the Grist Mill (Waterbury)
- [RUS] Starry Night Cafe (Flemington)

### Best Asian restaurant

- [W] A Single Pebble (Burlington)
- [RUS] Tiny Thai Restaurant (Winooski)

### Best ethnic cuisine (non-Asian)

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Indie House Restaurant (Burlington)
- [RUS] Mejorana Restaurante Mexicano Cantina (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Frida Taqueria and Grill (Stowe)
- [RUS] Samoanum Cafe (Montpelier)

### Best family-friendly restaurant

- [W] American Flatbread — Burlington Hearth
- [RUS] Friendly's (South Burlington)

### Best veggie fare

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Stone Soup (Burlington)
- [RUS] Magnolia Bistro (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Klamet (Montpelier)
- [RUS] Rhapsody Cafe (Montpelier)

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## FOOD & DRINK

# SEVEN-DAYSIES 2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best breakfast/brunch

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Penny Cluse Café (Burlington)
- [RU] Magnolia Bistro (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Kismet (Montpelier)
- [RU] River Run (Plainfield; now closed)

### Best place to do lunch

- [W] Lounge Bistro (Burlington)
- [RU] Penny Cluse Café (Burlington)

### Best late-night food

- [W] Kountry Kart Deli (Burlington)
- [RU] Nectar's (Burlington)

**Best Vermont Specialty Food**

## Cabot Cheddar

Cheese

### THE BIG CHEESE

The cheese section of a Vermont grocery store is a useful place. One reason? Cabot cheddar cheese. The winner of numerous international awards, Cabot started out nearly a century ago as a small Vermont dairy co-op that made butter, not cheese. But, in 1930, the farmers decided to branch out and hire a cheese maker. Since that fateful day, the co-op has grown, and now its steady cheese product line helps support the state's dairy community. It doesn't hurt that the cheddar is flavorful, aromatic and, sometimes, mouth-puckeringly sharp. As long as Cabot is around, turkey sandwiches across America won't lack for the tang provided by two-year-aged cheddar. With a picture of Vermont in its logo, Cabot remains a Green Mountain classic.

MARILYNN JOHNSON

### Best pizza restaurant

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] American Flatbread (Burlington-Heart
- [RU] Junior's Italian (Burlington; Colchester)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Positive Pie (Mallettfield [Montpelier])
- [RU] Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge (Stowe)

### Best pizza delivery

- [W] Leonardo's Pizza (Burlington)
- [RU] Dennis's Pizza (Burlington)

### Best bar

#### Best Vermont microbrewery

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Switchback Brewing Company (Burlington)
- [RU] Magic Hat Brewing Company (South Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Long Trail Brewing Company (Brattleboro [Carrs])
- [RU] Otter Creek Brewing/Wolverson's Organic Ales (Middlebury)

### Best brewpub

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Vermont Pub & Brewery (Burlington)
- [RU] American Flatbread (Burlington-Heart

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] The Alchemist Pub & Brewery (Waterbury)
- [RU] Three Penny Taproom (Montpelier)

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# FOOD & DRINK



## Best Special-Occasion Restaurant

### The Kitchen Table Bistro

Rhinemond

**FRESH FIND** Diners shouldn't count on ordering an old favorite when heading to The Kitchen Table Bistro. Since the restaurant opened in 2003, chefs Sean Atwell (partner) and Alice Lekitt (partner) have been dedicated to serving whatever is freshest and most delicious that day. Selections of heirloom carrots, greens or tomatoes appear on dinner plates in their local states. The meats are fresh too, and may include the seasonal pig that has been finished in-house from the restaurant. Alongside the focus of gorgeous ingredients, dishes at the Kitchen Table are unfussy. One recent menu included a crispy chicken leg from Moby Knoll Farm, grill-roasted corn in yellow beans and goat cheese from Half Acre Farm and oven-baked pie made with LaPazoo River Angus Farm beef. That simplicity may be what earned the favor of the James Beard Awards Foundation's committee. For two years running, The Alchemist have been finalists for the prestigious award Best Chef: Northeast.

Alice Lekitt

# SEVEN DAYSIES

2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

## Best après-ski

- [IN] Matherhorn Restaurant (Stowe)  
[OUT] The Alchemist Pub & Brewery (Waterbury)

## Best coffee-/teahouse

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**  
[IN] Muddy Waters (Burlington)  
[OUT] Uncommon Grounds (Burlington)

## OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [IN] Capital Grounds Cafe (Montpelier)  
[OUT] Langdon Street Cafe (Montpelier)

## Best bakery

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**  
[IN] Maribeths (Burlington)  
[OUT] August First (Burlington)

## OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [IN] Red Hen Bakery & Cafe (Middlesex)  
[OUT] La Boulange (Montpelier)

## Best natural-foods market

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**  
[IN] City Market/Union River Co-op (Burlington)  
[OUT] Healthy Living (South Burlington)

## OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [IN] Hunger Mountain Co-op (Montpelier)

## Best Vermont specialty food

- [IN] Cabot Cheddar (Calais)  
[OUT] Vermont Brownie Company (South Hero)

## Best street eats

- [IN] The Skinny Pancake (Burlington)  
[OUT] Hong's Chinese Dumplings (Burlington)

## Best wine seller

- [IN] Cheese Traders and Wine Sellers (South Burlington)  
[OUT] Ciel du Vigne (Burlington)

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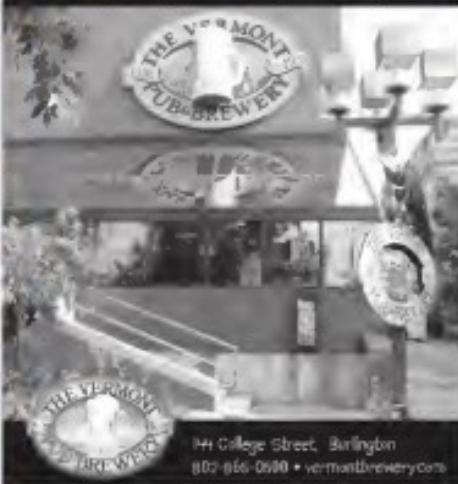
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## Best Up-and-Coming Performer

# Myra Flynn

**COMIN' ON STRONG** It may come as a surprise that some readers consider Myra Flynn up and coming. Not because she doesn't deserve recognition as one of the best voices in the Vermont music scene, but because one could say this country diva already "arrived" with her 2009 debut *Coolaid Mountain*. After all, she won runner-up to rock star Grace Potter in the Best Vocalist category last year. But Flynn still got places to go — she's working on her second album of classic R&B songs now and in the vein of Etta James, India Arie and Sharon Jones. This time, Flynn is friend and fellow songwriter (and 2010 Dayie) Gregory Douglass acting as producer and he describes her new album as "a little bit edgier." While the disc probably won't be out until early next year, until then you can hear Flynn and Douglass collaborating in 60s cover band Side Story as well as playing separate shows. From new solo to reissues — now short versatility sits and it's an fun fact: Flynn and the turners in this category, Justin Vernon, are growing married.

TYLER MACHIAS

# ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION

I sat today? Name recognition? Haha! For reviving their eighth Dayies, let's hear it for **Higher Ground** (Best Live Music Venue), **Club Matroneme** (Best Place to Dance), **Chris Bohemian** (Best Vermont Fiction Writer), the **Fireside Gallery** (Best Art Gallery), **Frog Hollow Vermont State Craft Center** (Coolest Craft Gallery), and the town of **Stowe** (Best Weekend Getaway in Vermont), among several others. And yes, we'd still like to know where Stowe residents go to get away. Maybe just down the road to the **Stowe Ski Area** or the **Stowe Mountain Resort & Spa**, which came in second this year? And in the winter, of course, they're likely to be leading the pack to the Super-litewee Snow Slope, **Stowe Mountain**. In short, they don't really need to leave town.

Or else, of course, they want to venture out to the **Shelburne Museum**, **ECHO Aquarium and Science Center**, the **Ryan Center**, the **Burlington Dinner Jazz Festival** or any other whimsical entertainment option in Vermont's Queen City.

Burlington's music scene simply rules. That's why we expanded a little this year, offering Dayies to the Best Local Music Hot Spot (**Uncasari**), the Best New Vermont Band (the between **Wilberries** and **Priya**) and Best Up-and-Coming Performer (**Myra Flynn**). We also separated the gongs from the guys, so to speak, to the Best Instrumentalist and Vocalist categories. Male winners were **Gordon Stahn** and **Gregory Douglass**, respectively, while **Grace Potter** and **A-Dog** keep the party — and the Dayies — going.

And there were still more new categories: The **Vermont Mozart Festival** earned a Dayie for Best Outdoor Music Series, though the Ben & Jerry's Concerts on the Green, put on by Higher Ground at the Shelburne Museum, was not far behind. Finally, the Best Theater Company, according to voters, is **Lyrick Thrauma Company**. It probably doesn't hurt that most of them have been in a lyric production, backstage or in the audience at some point in your lives.

Readers will like the Shelburne's **Kivimaki** as Best Public Golf Course — Buckle Ridge and Wilkurt golf clubs held for second. When it's time to ride the clubs for size, the **Trapp Family Lodge** is the fave for cross-country and the darkened-moon crowd still says **Marnie's Raug** in Burlington as Best Movie Theater, though suburbs are starting to catch up with their votes for Williston's Majestic 10.

Congrats to all!

PAMELA POLSTON

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**Best Outdoor Concert Series****Vermont Mozart Festival**

Various venues

**HIGH NOTES**

For classical music fans, the Vermont Mozart Festival has a venue that can't be beat: the sloping lawn at the Inn at Shelburne Farms. Listen to a Chopin concerto in the sun, feel over like Weil's enclosed gardens, and you might imagine riding home in a carriage. The beautiful Point is the focus of the Mozart Fest's current season, which features international soloists such as Helen Acciari, Philippe Entremont, and Jean-François Léger, raising the romantic notes in settings ranging from the Waits Openair to the Pines at Bolton Valley Resort. For those less classically inclined, there's jazzy "Sax on the Beach" at the brand-new Lake House, or a Friday night called "Mozart At The Beach" at the Trapp Family Lodge. The outdoor settings may encourage the little ones to run wilder and you, too, with its family-oriented "Rocky Bear" family festival, could just nurture a new generation of music lovers. And, with Helmut Barlowe taking the artistic direction from founder Hel Kapler, expect new iterations in 2011 and beyond.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VERNON MUSICAL FESTIVAL

**Best Vocalist, Male****Gregory Douglass****INDEPENDENT ARTIST**

As the music industry continues to hemorrhage, many artists need to find new and unorthodox ways to support themselves. So how about a little buzz on the public TV selection model? Singer-songwriter Gregory Douglass '88 is giving that a shot with a series of weekly house concerts broadcast live online via the streaming video website Justin.TV. Douglass plays songs, takes requests and chats with viewers during the webcast, intermittently switching channels to finance recording his next album ("I wanted to put it up \$100 right," Douglass says). "If you really want to see the artist you have sustained, you have to consider yourself a patron of the arts." Douglass is also raising donations through his record store website [www.douglassmusic.com](http://www.douglassmusic.com), where, in the spirit of transparency, he posted his entire budget for the new album (less fat: Douglass' ten-figure disc in early 2011). In the meantime, you can get your flood of drumming欢 and infectious songs every Monday night at 8 p.m. at [justin.tv/gregorydouglass](http://justin.tv/gregorydouglass).

TYLER MADDOCK

**SEVEN-DAYSIES**

2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

**Best live music venue**

- [W] Higher Ground [South Burlington]  
[RU] Nectar's [Burlington]

**Best local music hot spot****INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

- [W] Nectar's [Burlington]  
[RU] Radio Bean Coffehouse [Burlington]

**OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

- [W] Langdon Street Café [Montpelier]  
[RU] The Black Kettle [Barre/Fairfax]

**Best place to dance**

- [W] Club Metronome [Burlington]  
[RU] Higher Ground [South Burlington]

**Best instrumentalist, male**

- [W] Gordon Stone  
[RU] Dave Grippa

**Best instrumentalist, female**

- [W] Grace Potter  
[RU] Jennifer Hartwick

**Best vocalist, male**

- [W] Gregory Douglass  
[RU] Lowell Thompson

**Best vocalist, female**

- [W] Grace Potter  
[RU] Myra Flynn

**Best new Vermont band**

- [W] [b] Prana Villanelles

**Best up-and-coming performer**

- [W] Myra Flynn  
[RU] Justin Levinson

**Best club DJ**

- [W] A-Dog  
[RU] CRAIG mITCHELL

**Best visual artist**

- [W] Katherine Montstream  
[RU] dugNap

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# ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION

Best Theater Company

## Lyric Theatre Company

Burlington

### WHAT A SHOW

It's a rare year Seven Days readers give a standing ovation to the 33-year-old community theater company. Every year, about 400 local volunteers make Lyric's *Archie*'s (right) two upstairs theatrical productions happen at the Flynn MainStage — which means that any Chittenden County resident who hasn't acted, directorialized, or

in seven costumes or publicized a Lyric show probably knows someone who has. While professional Vermont Stage Company — the first runner up in this category — has an account for us, we know some productions Lyric has stayed big, excelling. Local opportunity for an evening of old fashioned song and dance. With a 2013 11-meson featuring the family friendly Peter Pan and the dark adult *Orpheus*, the all-ages series set to continue the tradition of offering a little something for everyone.

MARGOT HARRISON



Best Recreation Area

## Waterfront Park

Burlington



### FRONT AND CENTER

Anyone who frequents the water at Burlington's Waterfront Park knows the secret thrill of spotting a much coveted moose hen. But the stretch of prime Lake Champlain real estate has a lot more going for it than seating with a stellar view. As a major stop along the bike path, the park is a sprawling hot spot for cycling, running, rollerblading and more. Its verdant fields make way for such annual community blowouts as the Vermont Brewers Festival and the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival tents, while its waves have hosted everything from dragon boats to giant pumpkins. Soothing shops and restaurants set a stage with many cruise boats go out on Champlain and return and — did we mention the views? It's no wonder park visitors, weekend athletes and dog walkers seem permanently inspired from the first warm day of spring until the fall frost.

CAROLYN FEE

# SEVEN DAYSIES

2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best art gallery

- [W] Firehouse Gallery (Burlington)  
[RU] Frog Hollow Vermont State Craft Gallery (Burlington)

### Coolest craft gallery

- [W] Frog Hollow Vermont State Craft Gallery (Burlington)  
[RU] Artisan Hand Craft Gallery (Montpelier)

### Best movie theater

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Memphiz Roxy (Burlington)  
[RU] Majestic 10 (Williston)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Savoy Theater (Montpelier)  
[RU] Big Picture Theater and Cafe (Waitsfield)

### Best museum

- [W] Shelburne Museum  
[RU] ED+D Lake Aquarium and Science Center (Burlington)

### Best Vermont festival

- [W] Burlington Discover Jazz Festival  
[RU] Vermont Brewers Festival (Burlington)

### Best outdoor concert series

- [W] Vermont Mozart Festival  
[RU] Ben & Jerry's Concerts on the Green (Higher Ground at Shelburne Museum)

### Best Vermont fiction writer

- [W] Chris Bohjalian  
[RU] Howard Frank Mosher

### Best theater company

- [W] Lyric Theatre Company (Burlington)  
[RU] Vermont Stage Company (Burlington)

### Best performing arts venue

- [W] Flynn MainStage (Burlington)  
[RU] FlynnSpace (Burlington)

### Best recreation area

- [W] Waterfront Park (Burlington)  
[RU] Oakledge Park (Burlington)

Best Place to Take Your Kids

## ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/ Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

Burlington

### LAKE LOVE

With its colorful outdoor Page and Fish decors, ECHO seems to attract little ones from all over, and the aquarium has interactive exhibits and science-education programs that certainly live up to their expectations. The sprawling Islands center is all about exploring and having fun — for all ages — for environmental stewardship of the Lake Champlain Basin. And you can follow just a head start through a series of both permanent and changing exhibits. Curious about Champlain? Ask your supplement historical info about the legendary lake serpent. Wondering about the weather? Green screen technology lets you play meteorologists here and edit broadcast reports. Regular programs such as "Pint Sized Science" and "It's a Wacky Wednesday" after school songs and crafts about everything from lobsters to butterflies — free with admission. Heck, parents may even be lured to do this play me.

CAROLYN FOX



### Best public golf course

- [W] Kennebunk [Shelburne]  
[RU] (1c) Williston Golf Club  
Rocky Ridge Golf Club [St. George]

### Scenic snow slope

- [W] Stowe Mountain Resort  
[RU] Smugglers Notch [Jeffersonville]

### Best cross-country ski area

- [W] Traegg Family Lodge [Stowe]  
[RU] Catamount Outdoor Family Center [Williston]

### Best weekend getaway in Vermont

- [W] Town of Stowe  
[RU] Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa

### Best place to take your kids

- [W] ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center  
[Burlington]  
[RU] Shelburne Farms

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## Best Vermont Twitter Feed @ShayTotten

Shawn Draper

**TWEET DEAL** We thought we were at the top giving out a Best Vermont Twitter Feed Daysie award. We thought. Well, we're the first to recognize the stars of the local Twitterati! But, while our readers were voting on the Daysies, a group of enterprising social entrepreneurs and tweeters created their own Social Media Day and crowned a Social Media King and Queen. At last year's festival, the king and queen of Daysies tweens are one and the same — Shay Dray political columnist Shay Totten. Over the past two years, Shay has used social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter to seek out sources to answer questions from readers, to disseminate links to must-read stories about Vermont politics, to her own and others' — and to report on breaking news in real time. And, of course, in dispatches of 140 characters or fewer, his tweets from the Statehouse during the 2009 gay marriage debate were read and retweeted by people of every corner. And Shay continues to write 140 or so tweets every week for his column, "For Dray," that's a lot of characters.

CATHY RESMER

# MEDIA

**T**wo words: **Tom Messner**. The WPTZ monologuer is walking away with his eighth Daysie. Even if we like to blame him for incisive convictions, he is still the weatherman with a winning smile. In fact, a number of voters referred to him simply as "Mr. Smiley".

Messner's newsmate is still name-up, though, to the caring commentator over at **WCAX** (People, Marsha Parsons retired, deal with it). Those of you who watch either network via Burlington Television may be shocked to know the financially challenged fiber-optic supplier fell behind giant **Cumcast** in the Daysies this year. Guess there is such thing as bad publicity.



In radio land, morning-show "entertainment news" authors **Mike & Chantal** at 96 Triple X picked up their second shared Daysie for Best Local Radio DJ. But, even lacking that don't-mix, **Vermont Public Radio** landed on top again at Best Radio Station.

Oh, and thanks for once again choosing Seven Days as Best Vermont Publication. We don't take that honor for granted. We're also happy to see political columnist **Shay Totten** and staff writer Ken Pyleland peaked for first and second place, respectively, for Best Print/Web Journalist. Shay got an even honor this year: Readers who tweet singled him out for Best Vermont Twitter Feed. These would not be the ones who responded with such bon mots as "I refuse to be a Daysie" or "the more humble, 'I can't have it' gained out what that is."

The **Vermont Daily Briefing** is back to number one in the Daysies poll for Best Vermont Blog. Related, even if (or maybe because!) its writer, Philip French, is running for a seat in the Vermont Senate. And this year, perennial Green Mountain Daily fell in third place behind new kid on the blogosphere, **vtdigger.org**.

In the sports-political arena, **House of LaHay** kept a select-thin lead over Bill Stremmel's **Candide blog**. The former site essentially follows the goings-on at the legislative office besieged by greenies from the Red River Trail Park. But you know, honey, they'll clean up real nice for the Daysies party.

FAMILIA POLSTON



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# MEDIA

## Best Vermont Blog, Political **Vermontdailybriefing.com**



### LOGGING IN

After a nine-year hiatus, Philip Morris' sharp-tongued and often tetchy political blog Vermont Daily Briefing has returned to the readers' lexicon. VDB started back in 2006-2007 and 2008. Then, in June 2009, Morris boldly declared, "VDB will never be like Farkus!" He hoped readers would hold their votes until the fall, given that he's a Chittenden County Vermont State Senate candidate. Morris speaks his piece on his blog as a reflection of headlines from around the state: "Michael Steele Is Fired and They're Out to Get Him Because That's How He Runs"; "Pain Continues With the Sentence"; "God Desires Not to Win Until Able to Judge the Punishments of凡凡's deserts"; "Just to name a few." Vermont Yankee Guy Jim Douglass, U.S. Sen. Brian Donnelly and Burlington's service campaign are by far his favorite topics (though not necessarily in that order). Vermont-Daysies were supports even a guy who doesn't share big commenters can be a hero too. That's just how he rolls.

SHAY TOTTEN



### Best Spot on the Radio Dial

## Vermont Public Radio

**DIALED IN** It took the Vermont Public Radio 14 years to find The Point and Chirpy. But since 2003, the station's public radio affiliate has remained tops among Seven Days readers. Could it be the ample local news VPR has to offer or its twice-daily talk show Vermont Edition? Or maybe readers are addicted to "Please Home Companion," "This American Life" or "West, Wait...I'm Still Here"? And what about the above. Vermont listeners may recall that in 2009, host of regional Edward R. Murrow Awards this year, including one for her reporting on the糗 of Captive Michael Adebolajo, the Somerstown who was held in custody by Somerstown police in 2008. We're happy to know the stations dialed in on the call when you first came in to the office. "We'll bring in a dozen people and 100 balloons," said then-yet-to-be-the official radio director. Recognized as one of the most listened-to and most-supported public stations in the country, Tuesday morning, VPR couldn't do it without member support. So thank you!

PAMELA POLSTON

# SEVEN-DAYSIES

## 2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best print/web journalist

- [W] Shay Totten [Seven Days]  
[BU] Ken Picard [Seven Days]

### Best Vermont publication:

- [W] Seven Days  
[BU] Vermont Life

### Best TV newscast

- [W] WICAX  
[BU] WPTZ

### Best meteorologist

- [W] Tom Messner [WPTZ]  
[BU] "Eye on the Sky" guys [VPR]

### Best cable/satellite TV provider

- [W] Comcast  
[BU] Burlington Telecom

### Best local radio DJ

- [W] Mike & Chirpy [93 Triple X]  
[BU] Pete Powers [98.9 the Buzz]

### Best radio station

- [W] Vermont Public Radio  
[BU] The Point

### Best Vermont blog, political

- [W] Vermont Daily Briefing  
[vermontdailybriefing.com]  
[BU] VT Digger [vtclogger.org]

### Best Vermont blog, nonpolitical

- [W] House of Lemay  
[houseoflemay.blogspot.com]  
[BU] CindieBlog [cindieblog.com]

### Best Vermont Twitter feed

- [W] @shaytotten  
[BU] @handylunch

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## Best Shoe Store INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY **Stella**

Burlington

**IN STEP** At Stella's shoes are arranged not by brand but by color, which makes it all the easier to forget down-lunch-and-back-in-their-beauty. Since this store has an rock-and-roll aesthetic (think Chie Mihara and/or just because they're eccentric statement pieces), but the store really wins because, loyalty. Backstage offers an eminently cool to those rollers who aren't so used to spending their after-work hours in Caring Burlington. Stella's also carries shoes from the more serious accessories arena (such as a Miss Whiteley and Birkenstock collaboration), while sandals and dresses from Clark's and Kenneth Cole's Gentle Souls line prove comfort can look good. Either this pair's been upped to Stella's under-the-radar dignified status (she's never been selected by Scholastic) and now there's plenty of room for style clothes, jewelry and handbags. It's not unusual to see groups of smartly dressed women parading out for an hour in the stores' comfy couches, searching for the perfect pair.

MARGOT HARRISON

# SERVICES & STUFF

**M**any of the same nice stores continue to win the affections of Baysties' voters year after year — **Rosa**,

**Michael Kors, Mirror Mirror and the Zutano Company Store** among them. Sometimes new challengers crop up, while old standbys go out of business (BEP, Smellie). Other stores change locations or add a new one. And, by the way, when businesses have exactly the same name in more than one town, we don't know for sure which one readers are casting their vote for (looking at you, The Stanley Pancake). Just as you know, we can match votes in zip codes, or just compile votes if we have to, but it's not an issue unless you care!

Occasionally businesses repositioned so far place had themselves, disappointingly, in second. That's gotta be bucking — but it's even easier to land back on top, as **Sweet Lady Jane** did this year, for Best Women's Casual Clothing. Especially because owner Rachel Strober's second Church Street Marketplace boutique, **Tribeca**, closed its doors this year.

Other former run-up-ers remain strong, such as **Good Stuff** for Best Adult Toy Store (who've got the place a donut, now!).

**Coldwell Banker Hickok & Arthur** really scored the second trophy for Best Real Estate Agency while it can't make up for the recession, we hope our reader powerhouse brings small comfort. In the two-shoe department, Burlington's **Skiffack** won out again over the Old Spokes House for best Bike Shop. Also for the second year in a row, **Repetto Roma** edged out competitor Stowe-like Mountaintop Resort & Spa for Best Vermont Spa. This year, though, the platform upon the Vermont inspired us to split the category into Outside and Inside Chittenden County. In the latter group, **The Essex Culinary Resort & Spa** won its first Daytie.

Readers still find the **Inn at Shelburne Farms** and the **Inn at the Round Barn Farm** (Ward's Field) Vermont's best wedding venues, and **Fair Winds Bed & Breakfast** the top spot to tie the knot. Where to buy the girls? **Frog Hollow Vermont State Craft Gallery** won this new category — art restoration, as noted above, **Coolest Craft Gallery**

and, though florists are not wedding-specific, readers favor Burlington's **Kathy and Company Flowers** and Montpelier's **The Park Shutter** for those other dates. Inside Chittenden County, never consider in Full Bloom Ober höchst old school photo.

Burlington goldmine **Timothy Grannis** repeated his win for Best Jewelry Designer. Those still mourning the loss of his namesake store in downtown Burlington may want to note that Grannis' wares can be found at the jewelry collective **Alchemy** at Pine Street. This year, however, **Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry** kindly mitheld Best Jewelry Store.

We hear that people are reading less and the publishing industry is in the toilet. So it's refreshing to see how **Java Dogs** readers respond to the Best Bookstore category. Inside Chittenden County, great **Barnes & Noble** came in first — but not so far ahead of Little Cow Bookshop on the Church Street Marketplace. (And by the way, people, the name of your beloved secondhand shop is not Black Crane, Old Crow or Crow's Used Books. Can't you really? In central Vermont, bookstores will bury their noses in **Bear Pond Books**.)

**Cloud Nine** tied that, Kindle and iPad. Speaking of technology, **Small Dog Electronics** remains readers' choice for Best Computer Store. For the second year running, Best Web Developer went to **Union Street Media**, but we noticed a larger array of contenders this time. As for the Best Internet Service Provider? **Comcast**. Sorry, Burlington Telephones — hope you're still with us next year.

There's one category where small, and arguably notorious, is still beautiful: Best Place Rock a Movie. Despite the invasion of Netflix and Redbox — and though some readers quipped, "People still rent movies?" — **Waterfront Video** rules.

In the "green" arena, **Java Dogs** readers still find **Seventh Generation** Vermont's Earth-friendly company, and **Glastonbury**'s wind-power people, **NRG Systems**, an runner-up. New buildings the Green Leaf and Horse Ecology each got some votes, too.

Congrats to winners large and small, old and new. Hope to see you at the Baysties party.

PAMELA POLSTON



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# • SERVICES & STUFF



## Best Stationer

# Ink. Ink. Fine Stationery

Shelburne

**WRITE ON** It would be easy to attribute this year's Daysies victory of Ink. Ink. to the closing of the Engle's Stationery, a longtime favorite in the category. But Ink. Ink., which occupies the first floor of a gracious house in Shelburne's town center, is an apt replacement. Browse the four pastel-painted rooms, and you'll seem to be transported letter writing and a dead art. Stationery sets range from forty-five-dollar greeting cards to \$100. Ink. Ink. carries the great Tyrolite Spade, Marquis Jewelry, and Lolly Pulitzer — to basic hole paper in an array of colors. The store will give it your personal stamp on site. The gorgous leaves may look like novelties, but Crane & Co. no longer in color options such as lime and taffeta or watermelon and rose go for just \$12 a box. The card selection is compact but choice — check out the saucy hand painted designs from Blue Barnhouse. And line up some old-style correspondence sets.

MARGOT HARRISON

# SEVEN • DAYSIES

## 2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best women's casual clothing

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Sweet Lady Jane (Burlington)  
[BU] Ecco (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Salam Boutique (Montpelier)  
[BU] Onion River Sports (Montpelier)

### Best women's evening wear

- [W] Ecco (Burlington)  
[BU] Sweet Lady Jane (Burlington)

### Best men's clothing

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Michael Kors (Burlington)  
[BU] Banana Republic (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] The Men's Store (Montpelier)

### Best shoe store

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Stelle (Burlington)  
[BU] Conform Shoes (Burlington, Colchester, Shelburne)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] The Shoe Man at Onion River (Montpelier)  
[BU] Well Heeled (Stowe)

### Best vintage/secondhand clothes

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Old Gold (Burlington)  
[BU] Battery Street Jeans (Burlington)

### Best children's clothing

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Isabean (Burlington)  
[BU] Bébop Baby Shop (Essex Junction now closed)

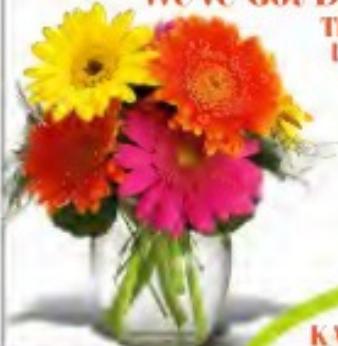
#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Zutano Company Store (Montpelier)

### Best spectacles

- [W] Eyes of the World (Burlington)  
[BU] The Optical Center (Burlington)

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Burlington

### CRAFTY BUSINESS

Since starting its Manchester and Middlebury wallets in 1979, Frog Hollow has focused all its energy on the Church Street Marketplace location. Representing more than 250 juried artists and craftspeople of traditional and contemporary crafts, the store carries everything from greeting cards, paintings and prints to hand-knitted woolen hats, ceramics and fiber art. Frog Hollow has recently won a Design for Coolest Craft Storey every year. This year it can add another Design to its wall for our new wedding gifts category. Chances are, these presents will be returned.

PAMELLA POLSTEN

### Best Jewelry Store

## Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry

Burlington



MARIA KOSTEROV

**SPARKLE PLENTY** If diamonds are a girl's best friend, then Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry is the most popular kid in school. The Main Street store is the place to go for diamonds, and lots of them. You want a 1-carat engagement, speaking? In a herringbone platinum setting? No problem. How about a blinding, 4-carat dazzler—you know for those casual Friday's? Perrywinkle's has you covered. And the good thing about their inventory is that you don't have to feel guilty wearing it. Perrywinkle's is celebrated for being conflict-free diamonds as well as fancy stones, knowing no size or weight. Fused with the proceeds, if diamonds aren't your jam, Perrywinkle's has plenty of other precious stones—from garnets to sapphires and every color in between. And with a collection of Lee Stevens timepieces, the store doesn't grow寂寂. That is, assuming he likes his whiteatches in the four-figure range.

LAUREN OBER

# SEVEN+DAYSIES

2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best jewelry designer

- [W] Timothy Gaines (Burlington)
- [RJU] Jennifer Kahn (Burlington)

### Best jewelry store

- [W] Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry (Burlington)
- [RJU] Zinnia (Burlington)

### Best beauty-product purveyor

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY
- [W] Mirror Mirror (Burlington)
- [RJU] MAC (Burlington)

### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Sprout Naturals (Montpelier)

### Best pet store

- [W] PetFood Warehouse (Shelburne South Burlington)
- [RJU] The Pet Advantage (South Burlington)

### Best musical instrument store

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY
- [W] Advance Music Center (Burlington)
- [RJU] Burlington Guitar & Amp

### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] GuitarsGuitars (Montpelier)

### Best record store

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY
- [W] Pure Pop (Burlington)
- [RJU] Burlington Records

### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Buch Spieler (Montpelier)

### Best bookstore

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY
- [W] Barnes & Noble (South Burlington)
- [RJU] Crow Bookshop (Burlington)

### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Bear Pond Books (Montpelier)
- [RJU] River dell Books (Montpelier)

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## SERVICES & STUFF



Karen Ducey/7 Days

# SEVEN + DAYSIES

2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best housewares

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Homeport (Burlington)  
[RU] Kiss the Cook (Burlington)

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

- [W] Capitol Kitchen (Montpelier)  
[RU] Stow's Kitchen Bath & Linens

### Best furniture store

- [W] Burlington Furniture Company  
[RU] Homeport (Burlington)

### Best antique/secondhand store

- [W] RESTORE (Barre, Burlington)  
[RU] Anjou & the Little Polar (Burlington)

### Best lighting shop

- [W] Constant Metal & Light (Burlington)  
[RU] The Lighting House (Shelburne)

### Best place to buy

#### wedding gifts

- [W] Frog Hollow Vermont State Craft Center (Burlington)  
[RU] Bed Bath & Beyond (Williston)

### Best photo shop

- [W] PhotoGarden (South Burlington)  
[RU] LeZot Camera (Burlington)

### Best computer store

- [W] Small Dog Electronics (South Burlington/Waterfield)  
[RU] Best Buy (Williston)

### Best place to rent a movie

- [W] Waterfront Video (Burlington/Middlebury)  
[RU] Netflix

### Best Musical Instrument Store

## OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

# GuitarSam

Montpelier

### MUSICALLY CORRECT

If you're looking for a sweet little guitar, a regular or your classical or acoustic, you can't go wrong at **GuitarSam**. The store has been a fixture on the capitol city Main Street for 25 years, and now it's got another. "People do verify its cost! You want a song? A mandolin? A classical piano?" **GuitarSam** has got them, too, along with plenty of floor space for you to play your own private concert — if that's what you need to make your day. If you want something unique, order a hand-made ukulele from owner Kevin Crosslett, who builds them in the basement of his Middlesex home, *Strum*.

MEGAN JAMES

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# SERVICES & STUFF

## Best Antique/Secondhand Store

### ReSTORE

Burlington and Beyond

**SECONDS, PLEASE** It's mind-boggling how the timeless pieces at ReSTORE cheerfully accept items that look like candidates for the scrap heap. And the new life into them and then offer them up for sale looking only gently worn. Where else in Vermont could you score a vintage player piano, a 1950s singer sewing machine, an original desk and wrought-iron cage, a working Bierman deck, hammett figurines, and their dozen or so pairs of What to Expect When You're Expecting all-at-pricelos-to-sell pieces? Formerly Recycle Healthy, this nonprofit ReSTORE is a veritable hunting ground for used furniture, kitchen wares, electronics, art supplies and appliances large and small. Whether you're trying to unburden yourself of basement clutter or shopping for James McAvoy needs by the pound, you'll be hard-pressed to find a better spot.

KEN PHARO



Ken Pharo with his outdoor stove.

# SEVEN+DAYSIES

## 2010 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

### Best wedding venue

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] Inn at Shelburne Farms

[R/U] The Essex Culinary Resort & Spa [Essex Junction]

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] Inn at the Round Barn Farm [Waitsfield]

[R/U] Stowe Mountain Lodge

### Best Borsht

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] Kathy and Company Flowers [Burlington]

[R/U] In Full Bloom [Shelburne]

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] The Pink Shutter [Montpelier]

### Best outdoor outfitter

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] Outdoor Gear Exchange [Burlington]

[R/U] Eastern Mountain Sports [South Burlington]

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] Onion River Sports [Montpelier]

### Best bike shop

#### INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] Sherick [Burlington]

[R/U] Old Spokes Home [Burlington]

#### OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

[W] Onion River Sports [Montpelier]

### Best auto dealer

#### [W] The Automaster [Shelburne]

[R/U] Heritage Automotive Group [Burlington]

### Best real estate agency

#### [W] Colcord Barker Heaton & Boardman Realty

[R/U] Lang McLaughlin Spens Real Estate

### Greatest garden center

#### [W] Gardener's Supply Company [Burlington, Williston]

[R/U] Giassens Florist & Greenhouse [Colchester]

### **Best VT green business**

- [B6] Seventh Generation (Burlington)
- [B8] NRG Systems (Hinesburg)

### **Best place to do your banking**

- [B6] Merchants Bank
- [B8] TD Bank

### **Best place to buy a pipe**

- [B6] Full Tank (Burlington)
- [B8] The Barn Gallery (Burlington)

### **Best adult toy store**

- [B6] Good Stuff (Burlington; St. Albans, Waterbury Center)
- [B8] Imago (Colchester)

### **Best hair salon**

- [B6] Indigo (Burlington)
- [B8] Stephen & Burns Salon, Spa and Boutique (Burlington)

### **Best places to get body art**

- [B6] Yankee Tattoo (Burlington)
- [B8] Jade Lotus Tattoo & Piercing (Burlington)

### **Best yoga studio**

- [B6] Evolution Physical Therapy & Yoga (Burlington)
- [B8] Yoga Vermont (Burlington)

### **Best health club**

- [B6] Sports & Fitness Edge (Essex; S. Burlington Wellness)
- [B8] Greater Burlington YMCA

### **Best Vermont spa**

- INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**
- [B6] The Essex Culinary Resort & Spa
  - [B8] (new) Cynear's Spa (Burlington)
  - Cross Day Spa (Williston)

### **OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

- [B6] Topnotch Resort and Spa (Stowe)
- [B8] Stowe/Lake Mountain Resort & Spa (Stowe)

### **Best manicure/pedicure**

- [B6] Tapas (Burlington)
- [B8] Cross Day Spa (Williston)



**Best Furniture Store**

## **Burlington Furniture Company**

Burlington

### **TAKE A SEAT**

Step inside the spacious brick-and-stone-pillared entrance of the Burlington furniture company and the first thing you notice is the rich smell of leather. That's apt, since why visit the store — so nicely called the Burlington Furniture Company — in a memory foam? There are plush couches to wallow in, made pillows to stroke, task-oriented desk and bedroom dining room tables that practically beg fingers to caress them. Little wooden craft tables close off the front pick for fine furnishing. Recently the store expanded into the space previously occupied by Light Works. With its showroom nearly doubled in size, there's even more space to display armchairs, arched lamps and other sleek, modern decor. One special piece is a red Phoenix and Dala, suede-tassel chair. Hey does it even sleep here?

KEN PICARD



### **Best Spa**

**INSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

## **The Essex Culinary Resort & Spa**

Basen

**AHHHH** Need ahhhhh? The Essex Culinary Resort & Spa claims to be the "culinary gateway to serene spa" and Seven Days readers would disagree. Perhaps they took a walk outside of the resort's full-service spa and fitness center options. The spa promises to pamper beginning with its private outdoor pool, waterfall, and oversized hot tub. Steam rooms, sauna, and relaxation lounge augment an inviting array of in-house body treatments, facials and salon services. Start out with the Muscle Melt, a 60-minute glycolic scrub for sore bodies, or the über-curious Green Tea and Ginger Wrap, or try the Wave Stone Massage, when essential oils smooth tired muscles into bouncy refreshers. With all this downtime, you may just walk up an appetite in which case you can sample such spa-inspired fare as Grilled Shrimp with Papaya or the Seafood Festibowl. We all deserve a little R&R now and then.

CAROLYN FOX



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